

REMARKS

The undersigned wishes to acknowledge the courteous treatment received during an interview held with the Examiner on Jan. 13, 2003.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected as being indefinite. Claim 6 has been canceled. Claim 7, which previously depended from claim 6, does not have the offending language.

Claims 1-6, 9 and 12-16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nantz et al in view of Petite et al and Hoffman et al.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, and 18 were rejected as being unpatentable over the above references and further in view of Van der Laan et al.

Nantz discloses a vehicle security system including a remote for activating an alarm system on a vehicle. There is no teaching or suggestion of a GPS in connection with the remote.

Petite has a system for monitoring and controlling remote devices. As shown in Fig. 3E, a GPS receiver provides location information to be combined with other data received from a remote device. The other data has to do with environmental and/or other conditions within a defined remotely located region, according to the abstract.

Hoffman shows a personal security and tracking system and was cited for use of an alarm system to indicate an emergency.

Van der Laan describes a personal alarm system (not involving GPS, apparently) and was cited for the visual informing means.

In the present invention, the remote or portable locator is continuously sending out a location and identification signal to a GPS which continuously provides the location

and identification information to a central station. When the user of the remote presses an activation switch during an emergency, an alarm signal is sent along with the location and identification signal to the GPS which transmits the location information along with the identification and alarm signals to the central station. The central station, upon receiving the alarm signal then transmits a signal to a station local to the remote locator to provide assistance. The remote locator also has a remote for activating and deactivation an alarm system in a vehicle and also carries a key for the vehicle. This basic system is not taught or suggested in the art of record, either alone or in any combination of references. This invention is an improvement over the conventional remote used to operate the security system of a vehicle.

In view of the art cited by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to call for the portable alarm and locator device transmitting location and identification information concerning the device and having a first activation button to activate or deactivate the alarm system in a vehicle and a second activation button to send an alarm signal along with the location and identification system to the GPS system as described in page 26 of the specification. This basic combination of features does not appear to be suggested by any of the art of record, in any combination. It is only the teachings of this application would suggest that these features be combined in a single remote device for a vehicle.

Several of the depending claims, which add details to what is already recited in claim 1, have been canceled and a new claim 19 has been added.

New claim 19 describes the invention in terms of a complete system and not just a portable unit and includes all of the basic features of the invention including the central

station and the operation stations which are described in page 27 of the specification.

These additional features also appear to be lacking in the art of record.

During the interview the undersigned presented to the Examiner the arguments appearing above.

In view of the foregoing, it is urged that the claims now remaining are drawn to patentable subject matter and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. If the Examiner determines that further changes are required to obtain allowance of the claims, he is urged to call the undersigned.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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In the Claims

Marked up version showing changes:

1. (amended) A combination vehicle alarm and locator device comprising:
 - a) a portable housing;
 - b) a vehicle alarm activator positioned within said housingincluding a transmitter for activating an alarm system on a vehicle; [and]
 - c) a transmitting device located in said housing for transmitting a location signal to a Global Positioning Satellite system for determining a location of said device, [.] said transmitting device including a processor and memory device connected to said processor for storing identification information concerning said device, and said transmitting device constantly transmitting said location signal along with identification information concerning said device;
 - d) a first activation button on said housing for activating said transmitter to transmit an infra red signal to said vehicle to activate or deactivate said alarm system on said vehicle;
 - e) a second activation button on said housing for generating an alarm signal to be transmitted along with said location signal for indicating that a holder of said alarm and locator device requires assistance at the location provided by said Global Positioning System; and
 - f) a key ring removably extending from a side of said housing for carrying a key for use with said vehicle.

Cancel claim 2.

Cancel claims 4-6.

7. (amended) The combination vehicle alarm and locator device as recited in Claim [6] 3, further comprising a speaker connected to said processor for generating an audible signal when said activation button is activated.

8. (amended) The combination vehicle alarm and locator device as recited in Claim [4] 7, further comprising a cover connected to said housing and slidable along a portion thereof for selectively covering said activation button.

9. (amended) The combination vehicle alarm and locator device as recited in Claim [1] 8, further comprising a clip releasably connected to said housing for releasably securing said device to an article of clothing of the user.

10. (amended) The combination vehicle alarm and locator device as recited in Claim [4] 9, further comprising a first visual indicator, said first visual indicator being illuminated when said activation button is activated.

Cancel claims 15-16.

17. (amended) The combination vehicle alarm and locator device as recited in Claim [16] 11, further comprising a visual indicator, said visual indicator generating a visual signal upon activation of said activation button.

Add the following claim:

19. (new) A combination vehicle alarm and personal locator system comprising:
a) a portable unit carried by a user containing a vehicle alarm apparatus for remotely activating and deactivating an alarm system in a vehicle and a transmitting device continuously transmitting location and user identification information

signal for said portable unit to a Global Positioning Satellite system for determining and issuing a location signal for said portable unit;

b) said portable unit having a first activation button for initiating an infra red alarm signal to said vehicle to activate or deactivate said alarm system on said vehicle and a second activation button for generating an alarm signal to be transmitted along with said location and user identification information signal;

c) a plurality of operation stations positioned throughout the world;

d) a central station for receiving continuous location and identification information for said portable unit from said Global Positioning Satellite system, said central station upon receiving an alarm signal along with said location and user identification signal of said portable unit alerting an operation station nearest to said portable unit for providing assistance to the holder of said portable unit; and.

e) a key ring removably mounted on said portable unit for carrying a key for use with said vehicle.